



5. Public Input

The recommendations of the 2005 Hurst Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan are designed to reflect the recreational needs and desires of the citizens of Hurst. Two methods were used to gain citizen input: an extensive and scientifically accurate citywide attitude (telephone) survey and public presentations to the Hurst Parks and Recreation Board. In addition, public input is solicited on a regular basis during City Council meetings when the public is invited to speak during open sessions.

5.1 Introduction

Raymond Turco & Associates conducted the City's 2004 Recreation Needs Assessment and Attitude Survey, which forms part of the City's 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. This public opinion poll captured attitudes on parks and recreational issues in the community from respondents randomly selected from phone-matched households. The full sample of 400 respondents was interviewed telephonically with a comprehensive questionnaire that collected attitudinal data on a variety of recreational issues including quality ratings of facilities, need for construction of additional amenities and satisfaction with recreational characteristics.

5.2 Citizen Survey

The advantage of a telephone survey is that it is randomly conducted and therefore less susceptible to bias by the respondents. The survey was designed to examine residents' participation in recreational activities, as well as to assess recreational needs in the community. The information

A telephone survey is less susceptible to bias.



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

that is gathered in this report allows city leaders to better understand the recreational needs and desires of its citizenry.

The Executive Summary of "A Survey of Resident Attitudes about Parks and Recreation in the City of Hurst: 2004 Parks and Recreation Attitude Survey" including the "Cumulative Survey Results" and "Survey Result Tables" are contained in the Appendices of this report.

The survey investigates the following areas of interest:

1. **General Recreational Usage in Hurst**

- Overall level of satisfaction with quality of parks and recreation in Hurst
- Overall satisfaction with recreational services provided to general age groups
- Frequency of or participation in city recreation facilities and activities
- Quality ratings of certain aspects of parks and recreation facilities
- Value rating of Parks and Recreation Department based on fees paid
- City parks most frequented
- Level of agreement or disagreement with recreation-related statements
- Sources utilized to access information about recreational activities in Hurst

Recreational Usage

2. **Assessing Future Needs**

- Recreational facilities lacking in the City of Hurst
- Programs for Parks and Recreation Department to offer
- Level of support for or opposition to additional park and recreational improvements
- Prioritization of most important recreational facilities to construct
- Level of agreement or disagreement with statements regarding city beautification efforts
- Likelihood of utilizing certain facilities if available in Hurst

Future Needs

The citizen survey included the responses of 400 individuals. Below is a Strategic Summary of the City of Hurst 2004 Parks and Recreation Attitude Survey (see Appendix A: Public Participation).

Strategic Summary of the 2004 Hurst Parks Survey

Satisfaction with recreational services provided in various age group
(Refer to question 3 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #1)

Highest level of satisfaction for:

- children under age 6
- children ages 6 - 12
- adults ages 46 – 65

Lowest level of satisfaction for:

- children ages 13 - 18
- adults over the age of 65

Recreational facility lacking in the city (open-ended question with no list of



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

facilities provided)

(Refer to question 4 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #4)

- multi-use trails/bike park (throughout the City)
- pool/water park/natatorium (areas 1 & 2)
- recreation center/gym (areas 3 & 4)

(all three of these facilities rated exactly at the same level in terms of facilities lacking in the City)

Positive ratings – list of 25 options provided

(Refer to question 9 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #13)

Highest rated items:

- maintenance of City athletic facilities
- overall safety of the aquatics centers
- overall quality of the recreation center
- overall quality of City athletic fields
- overall quality of City parks
- maintenance of City parks

Lowest rated items:

- number of hike and bike trails in the City
- having hike and bike trails conveniently located for people in all areas

City park(s) of preference

(Refer to question 11 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #16)

Most preferred

- Chisholm Park

Popular

- Central Park
- Redbud Park
- Hurst Community Park

Medium popular

- Echo Hills Park
- Hurst Athletic Complex

Least likely to visit

- Windmill Park
- Valentine Park

Importance of new recreational facilities or services – list of 30 options provided

(Refer to question 7 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #9)

Most Important

- Park restrooms
- jogging/biking trails
- picnic tables
- natural habitat/nature areas
- playgrounds

Second importance

- rental picnic/reunion pavilions
- natatorium



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

- recreation center
- exercise stations along trails

Medium importance

- basketball courts
- gymnasium
- volley ball courts
- dog park
- skate board park

Least important

- BMX bicycle course
- football fields
- indoor archery range
- adult softball fields
- shuffleboard courts

Most passionate response:

- park restrooms
- jogging/biking trails
- natatorium
- natural habitat/nature area

Overall most important recreational facility to construct – one choice only from the list of 30 options provided in previous question

(Refer to question 8 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #12)

Most important

- natatorium
- jogging/biking trails

Secondary most important

- recreation center
- park restrooms
- dog park
- playgrounds
- skateboard park
- natural habitat/nature areas

Tertiary most important

- baseball fields
- amphitheater
- soccer fields
- picnic facilities
- basket ball courts

Least important

- horseshoe pits
- exercise stations along trails
- meeting space
- BMX bicycle course
- adult softball fields

Hike and bike trails consistently rate as highly desirable in the City and sorely lacking at the same time.

Likelihood of using seven mentioned facilities if available in Hurst

(Refer to question 13 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #20)



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

Mentioned facilities include: Skateboard park, dog park, BMX park, natatorium, additional meeting spaces, public restrooms and recreation center.

Highest likelihood of utilization

- recreation center
- public restrooms

Medium likelihood of utilization

- natatorium
- dog park

Unlikely to be used

- additional meeting spaces
- skateboard park
- BMX park

Beautification efforts in the City – level of agreement with six statements provided

(Refer to question 12 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #17)

Highest level of agreement

- Improved landscaping of City streets will help to improve our City image
- I support the City developing “gateways to the City” so that people know they are coming into Hurst

High level of agreement

- I am satisfied with how streets and intersections are landscaped in Hurst

Intermediate level of agreement

- I believe the City should plant more trees and landscaping along streets and intersections
- I would like to see more public art in Hurst

Disagreement

- I do not believe that landscaping city streets and intersections is all that important

Overall support for or opposition to capital park & recreation improvements – list of 8 options provided

(Refer to question 14 of the Cumulative Survey Results and Table #23)

Most supported

- renovate and redevelop neighborhood parks
- construction of restrooms in small neighborhood parks
- expand the City’s trail system

Secondary supported

- additional recreation center
- natatorium

Least supported

- dog park
- expanding community meeting space
- skateboard park

Most enthusiasm

- renovating and redeveloping neighborhood parks



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

- construction of restrooms
- an additional recreation center
- expanding the city's trail system

The Hurst City Council appoints the Hurst Parks and Recreation Board. The Board represents the citizens of Hurst at large and is viewed by the City Council as the “voice of the citizens of Hurst in parks and recreation matters.” The Board has the responsibility to make recommendations to the City Council concerning parks and recreation matters. The Board meets 10 to 12 times per year to discuss various issues that are brought to their attention for review. The Parks and Recreation Board's involvement with the 2005 Hurst Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan includes the following: Review of the Citizens Attitude Survey; review of the preliminary Streetscape and Gateways presentation; final review of the draft action plan; and recommendations to City Council for the final adoption of the Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan.

5.3 Parks and Recreation Board

The Powers and Duties of this Board include:

Powers and Duties of the Board

1. Adopt a set of bylaws and establish policies and procedures for the proper administration of the Parks and Recreation Program of the City, subject to the approval of the City Council.
2. Encourage and facilitate the establishment and maintenance of parks, playgrounds, playfields, centers, swimming pools and other park and recreation facilities, on properties owned and controlled by the City or public properties, with the consent of the owners and authorities thereof.
3. Encourage the establishment of a supervised recreation program for all ages, on properties owned and controlled by the City or on private or public properties, with the consent of the owners and authorities thereof.
4. Recommend for acquisition by the City Council certain lands and buildings deemed necessary for the use of the City Parks and Recreation Program, the location of which shall have the approval of the City Planning Commission.
5. Study and submit recommendations for the improvements and expansion of the parks and recreation facilities program.
6. Cooperate with all agencies, groups and clubs concerned with recreation in the City.
7. Recommend for consideration by the City Council, upon approval of the City Manager, the utilization of any and all authority granted to municipalities under State enabling legislation which affects parks or recreation.
8. Submit monthly and/or annual reports and such other reports as from time to time may be requested.
9. Study and recommend to the Council, through the City Manager, ways and means of financing the parks and recreation facilities and program.



Parks and Recreation Programming Master Plan

10. Recommend the establishment of standing committees and other such committees as from time to time may be deemed necessary.

The Board consists of seven (7) regular members along with two (2) alternate members with voting privileges in the absence of regular members. The term for members is typically two years for regular members; one year for alternate members.



Parks and Recreation Board work session

Members of the public are invited to speak freely during an open session of the City Council meetings held on a twice monthly basis. In fact the Hurst residents are encouraged to address the Council with any issue that may be on their mind.

5.4 City Council meetings

The Hurst City Council is composed of seven members, including the Mayor, and all positions are elected at-large. The Council members serve staggered two-year terms, and the Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Hurst's City Hall.